

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Nov. 28, 2011]  
HARVEY TO RETIRE  
LONGEST-SERVING TOURISM DIRECTOR IN  
STATE  
(By Nita Johnson)

LAUREL COUNTY, KY.—What began as a year's assignment in 1982 evolved into the longest-running term of a tourism commissioner in the state.

Ken Harvey, executive director of the London-Laurel Tourist Commission, announced his plans to retire on Feb. 1, after serving in that capacity for 26 years.

He has seen much growth during his tenure with the tourist commission, with his latest focus on developing the Heritage Hills property off Falls Street.

But the evolution of the World Chicken Festival, the Redbud Ride, various athletic events and a motel tax are just a few of the accomplishments that have brought revenue to the tourism commission during Harvey's term—accomplishments he credits to the board members with whom he has served.

Board members returned the compliment, with Tourism Commission Board President Caner Cornett describing Harvey as "one of a kind."

"He's a self-propelled man. Ken only knows one speed—full force," Cornett said. "He's the kind who can talk to someone on jail work release or the governor and show no partiality. He has that kind of personality."

Cornett said Harvey's exit as tourism director leaves "some big shoes to fill."

"He'll be hard to replace. His knowledge and experience is invaluable," he added.

Though coming to London from Ohio, Harvey said just a few months after settling here, he and wife Cheryl knew they wanted to stay in the area.

"It just felt like home," he said. "When we came here, there were 650 motel rooms. Now there are 1,300," he said. "Interstate 75 is an attraction in itself for travelers going north or south. We have a good cross-section of dining here and our board is made up of citizens whose home is here."

Other attractions that have increased the tourism business are the annual Battle of Camp Wildcat, which Harvey considers "the best in the state," along with the location of the Harley-Davidson dealership.

Harvey has been honored several times for his diligence in promoting tourism in the London area and is proud that the London commission is highly respected across the state. While he readily admits he does not wish to retire, he realizes that his ongoing health problems and three recent back surgeries are limiting his ability to serve in the capacity that he wishes to continue.

"It's time. I hope they bring in someone with fresh ideas that can continue to develop the Heritage Hills property and give some new ideas for other developments," Harvey said. "Besides, I have a grandson who is six years old and I'm looking forward to spending lots and lots of years with him."

#### VISA WAIVER PROGRAM ENHANCED SECURITY AND REFORM ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Senator KIRK and I have introduced the Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act.

This is a piece of legislation near to my heart. For those who have known me, they have known I have fought

long and hard for Poland to become free and independent. I think about the dark days of martial law in Poland, when we worked to support the solidarity movement in Poland and remove the yoke of communism. And after Poland emerged from the Iron Curtain, I worked with many of my colleagues to secure Polish democracy and bring them into NATO, securing their future in Western Institutions.

This legislation would help provide Poland a path to entry into the visa waiver program. It would eliminate the need for Polish citizens to obtain a visa to travel to America. As the granddaughter of a woman who came to America from Poland over 100 years ago, it would warm my heart to know a grandmother from Gdansk would no longer need a visa to visit her grandchildren in Baltimore.

This legislation does much more than just strengthen our relationship with Poland. It is a jobs bill. The visa waiver program makes America open for business for more tourists from allied countries. This can have a profound impact. South Korea entered the VWP in early 2009. In 2010, there was an increase of 49 percent in arrivals to the United States from South Korea, which created \$789 million in new spending and supported 4,800 new jobs.

If Poland becomes eligible for the visa waiver program and has a similar increase in visitors, it would create \$181 million in new spending and 1,500 new jobs. It's good for business and good for the economy.

Finally, it would strengthen America's national security by improving how we protect our borders. To participate in the visa waiver program, countries must agree to stronger passport controls, border security, and cooperation with American law enforcement—making it harder for terrorists to use these countries as entry points to the United States.

This legislation reinforces the program as an important component of national security by placing member countries on probation if any of the VWP requirements are not met and requiring a country's removal if it does not fulfill its requirements within two years.

The legislation also reinstates the Secretary of Homeland Security's Waiver Authority and a new cap on visa refusal rates will be set at no more than 10 percent, allowing the Secretary to recognize those nations that have met U.S. concerns on passport security, law enforcement cooperation, and border security. By admitting countries that have greater security standards for their travelers, the State Department can focus its limited consular resources on higher risk nations.

Poland has long been a friend to the United States, sending two of its finest heroes, Kosciusko and Pulaski, to fight in the Revolutionary War for America's freedom. In recent years, Poland has stood besides the United States in the aftermath of September 11, sending

troops to fight alongside Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Poland has overcome a melancholy history to become a vibrant and growing democracy. This legislation helps cement that relationship while improving America's security and creating new jobs. I look forward to working with my colleagues to secure its passage.

#### REMEMBERING RAY REID

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Ray Reid, a devoted champion of Arkansas and its citizens, affectionately known as Arkansas's 'fifth congressman.'

Ray dedicated his life to public service, serving more than 30 years in the Army including three wars—WWII, Korea and Vietnam—before retiring as a colonel and continuing his commitment to this country serving for more than 23 years as chief of staff for three of Arkansas's Third Congressional District Congressmen—John Paul Hammerschmidt, Tim Hutchinson and Asa Hutchinson.

As a loyal staffer, Ray was an ambassador of and to Arkansas, going above and beyond to help resolve issues constituents had with the Federal Government. Under his guidance, Congressman Hammerschmidt laid the groundwork for successful constituent service. Ray recognized that the key to good governing and good public service is that you treat everyone fairly and set political differences aside.

Congressman Hammerschmidt recently said of his former right-hand man that he was the best administrative assistant in the House during his service. Upon his retirement Congressman Asa Hutchinson said Ray was known to be one of the most knowledgeable men in Washington.

When I was elected to Congress in 2001, Ray went out of his way to help us get on the right track. His skills and experiences were vital to helping us build a strong foundation to serve the people of the Third District.

Despite working in the minority for much of his career, Ray managed to accomplish great things for Arkansas because of the long-lasting relationships he built. Certainly Ray saw many changes in the Third Congressional District during his years of service to Arkansas and many can be credited to his efforts. Ray had a hand on many infrastructure projects including Interstate 540 and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport.

In a recent interview, Congressman Hammerschmidt fondly recalled Ray's passion for the Natural State: "Ray really loved Arkansas," he said. Ray helped change the landscape of Arkansas. His impact is far reaching and his legacy is evident in the Third Congressional District.

The State of Arkansas has lost a true friend who went to great lengths to make it a better place.